

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, MA

SUBJECT: BIENVENU PROGRAM MADAGASCAR

REFS: A. TANANARIVE 0754; B. TANANARIVE 0907

BEGIN SUMMARY: SERIES EVENTS LEAD TO CANCELLATION ENTIRE BIENVENU PROGRAM. EMBASSY RECEIVES ASSURANCES THAT BRANCACCIO WILL NOT FACE SIMILAR PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. BIENVENU WAS SCHEDULED TO GIVE TWO LECTURES AND A FIVE-DAY SEMINAR FOR UNIVERSITY MADAGASCAR STUDENTS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. PROGRAM WAS DISCUSSED AND ARRANGED AT LEAST TWO MONTHS BEFORE BIENVENU ARRIVAL AND WELL BEFORE BAUER INCIDENT (REFTEL A).

2. AFTER BAUER INCIDENT ON JUNE 19, CAO MET WITH STUDENT REPS AND FACULTY TO BE ASSURED THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST BIENVENU PROGRAM. IN THAT MEETING, STUDENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT, DESPITE BAUER INCIDENT AND DESPITE UNIVERSITY-WIDE SEMINAR SCHEDULED BY PRO-AKFM FEDERATION DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ETUDIANTS DE MADAGASCAR (FAEM) TO OVERLAP WITH PART OF BIENVENU PROGRAM, STUDENTS WANTED TO GO AHEAD WITH BIENVENU PROGRAM. FACULTY DEFERRED TO STUDENTS IN DECISION.

3. ON JUNE 25, HEAD OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT CALLED ON CAO AND INFORMED HIM THAT START BIENVENU PROGRAM HAD TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DELAYED UNTIL CONCLUSION FAEM SEMINAR. ALSO INFORMED CAO THAT

STUDENT SPOKESMAN (PARA 2) HAD BEEN KILLED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT JUNE 23 OR 24. CAO AGREED TO START BIENVENU PROGRAM JULY 4, MAINTAINING LECTURES AND SHORTENING SEMINAR TO TWO-AND-A-HALF DAYS. CABLED KINSHASA AT ONCE TO INFORM BIENVENU OF DELAY BUT TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS CAUSED RECEIPT TELEGRAM KINSHASA AFTER BIENVENU DEPARTURE.

4. EVENING JULY 3, HEAD BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT INFORMED CAO THAT FAEM SEMINAR HAD BEEN EXTENDED ONE DAY AND THAT JULY 4 BIENVENU ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE CANCELLED.

5. JULY 5 EDITION MADAGASCAR MATIN CARRIED SUMMARY RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY FAEM SEMINAR INCLUDING QUOTE GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS RUN COUNTER TO THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM (WE DEMAND) ... THE SUPPRESSION OF THE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR, ORGANIZED AT THE LAW, ECONOMY AND MANAGEMENT FACULTY, BY AMERICAN LECTURERS UNQUOTE. IN ABSENCE COMMUNICATION FROM UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES CAO ACCOMPANIED BIENVENU TO CAMPUS AS SCHEDULED. UPON ARRIVAL WERE INFORMED BY RECOGNIZABLY LEGITIMATE STUDENT DELEGATION THAT REMAINDER BIENVENU PROGRAM HAD TO BE CANCELLED DUE FAEM SEMINAR RESOLUTION. STUDENTS SEEMED GENUINELY APOLOGETIC, EXPLAINING THEY WERE A SMALL MINORITY AND HAD TO ACQUIESCE IN MAJORITY DECISION. STUDENTS VISITED USIS LATER SAME DAY TO PICK UP COPIES BIENVENU MATERIALS.

6. AT LUNCH AT RESIDENCE SAME DAY SECRETARY GENERAL MINISTRY EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY RECTOR APOLOGIZED FOR BIENVENU CANCELLATION. THEY SAID THAT LAW FACULTY DEAN LEONARD HAD CONVOKED GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STUDENTS AND HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCE FROM STUDENTS THAT BAUER AND BIENVENU INCIDENTS WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. BOTH WERE ADAMANT IN INSISTING THAT BRANCACCIO'S WORK WOULD NOT BE INTERFERED WITH.

7. BIENVENU DEPARTED 0930 MONDAY JULY 8, 36 HOURS LATE DUE PLANE BREAKDOWN.

8. COMMENT: FEEL THAT BAUER AND BIENVENU WERE CAUGHT IN VERY RECENTLY REVIVED STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY. THEY WERE EASY TARGETS FOR EXPRESSION MANIFOLD STUDENTS DISCONTENTS WITH THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS, THEIR EDUCATION, THEIR FUTURE PROSPECTS.
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VAST MAJORITY NON-POLITICAL STUDENTS BEING MANIPULATED BY AKFM (PRO-SOVIET) AND MANANDAFYIST (MAOIST) STUDENTS AND FACULTY FOR POLITICAL ENDS EXTERNAL TO UNIVERSITY. BELIEVE THAT UNIVERSITY AND MINISTRY EDUCATION OFFICIALS WILL DO ALL THAT IS IN THEIR POWER TO PREVENT DISRUPTION BRANCACCIO'S WORK. CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT BRANCACCIO MIGHT BECOME TARGET STUDENT POLEMICS, BUT NOTE THAT WIFE PAO HAS CONTINUED TEACH RIGHT UP-TO-DATE WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY DIFFICULTIES WHATSOEVER. MORE LIKELY

THAT GOVERNMENT WILL PULL IN STUDENTS' LEASH AFTER ALLOWING THEM
TO BLOW OFF SOME STEAM.
MENDENHALL

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